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## ASSESSOR BRINGS FOCUS ON TIF TO MURA BOARD

**"Private site improvements are not public improvements"**

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSDE- The [Jan. 3 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority \(MURA\) board meeting](#) was called to order by Board Chair Barbara Bynum. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Councilman J. David Reed informed the chair he would be late to the meeting; however, he also left before the 90-minute meeting was adjourned. There were no changes to the [agenda](#) and the minutes from the Sept. 20, 2023 meeting were approved.

### Call for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

**TIF Expenditure Update** - City Engineer Scott Murphy

said, "The Fairfield is essentially done. We're waiting on them to file. Basecamp is basically closed out. Shelter [Distilling] is moving right along. Disbursements are a little quicker than what we are used to seeing. They have used up their Promissory Notes."

**MURA Financial Session** - Executive Director William Bell

[Continued pg 25](#)



*Colorado Outdoors Medical Center, which touts a Surgical Center, Urgent Care, and Imaging Center did not receive horizontal site improvements from the MURA. Executive Director and City Manager Bill Bell said, "The Medical Center. We decided not to incentivize. There was a lot of feedback that was political. But it will be our most profitable [endeavor]." The Medical Center, which is located next to the Fairfield Hotel, is slated to open in 2024. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

## BOCC APPROVES 1ST AMENDMENT TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT FOR COURTHOUSE



*Montrose County Commissioners voted unanimously on Jan. 3 to approve the first amendment to the Design-Build Contract with Stryker & Company for the County's Historic Courthouse, above, for a not-to-exceed guaranteed maximum price of \$14,836,132.82. Mirror staff photo.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a [regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 3](#), Montrose County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the first amendment to the Design-Build Contract with Stryker & Company for the County's Historic Courthouse, for a not-to-exceed guaranteed maximum price of \$14,836,132.82.

At the start of the meeting, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the session to order, and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, "Please join me." All commissioners were present. Hansen noted that it was her last meeting as BOCC Chair; the [reorganization of the board](#) is set to take place on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Delivering the invocation was Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church. One of the great joys in leadership is found in its definition, he said, which is

[Continued pg 6](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey on the San Juan Shooting Range!](#)

[Red Hawks Sports By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Wolves, Politics and Science: Commentary by Jan Chastain!](#)

[Reader photo Spotlight: Deb Reimann!](#)

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## AIRPORT ACCESS GETS GREEN LIGHT WITH NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Good news for drivers heading to and from Montrose Regional Airport: Morton Electric, Inc. has been awarded the contract to install a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of US 50 and Airport Access.

"We are listening to the public regarding the concerns driving out of the airport onto Highway 50," said Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold. "It's tough for drivers, especially the majority who are turning south onto the highway. This new signal will make merging much smoother and safer."

Morton Electric submitted the winning bid, with a price tag of \$567,729.30. The temporary signal will be installed at the existing entrance point and will operate for three years or until a permanent signal is installed.

At this time, plans are already underway for a permanent solution. "We're 90 percent finished with the design for a new permanent signal," Arnold mentioned. "It will be located at the intersection of Industrial Drive and US 50, giving drivers even better access to the airport."

This is a major win for both drivers and the airport. The temporary signal will provide immediate relief while the permanent solution takes shape. The temporary signal is expected to be up and running soon, paving the way for a safer and more efficient future for airport access. [Learn more about Montrose Regional Airport and airport improvements.](#)

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We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS JANUARY SHOW

MCA News Release

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts invites everyone to start the New Year by "Living Large". MCA's talented members have created a wide-ranging art show of large art pieces - some up to five feet. This show offers art that delights and challenges our thoughts about the visual world, including landscapes, florals, ranching life, abstracts, and fiber art. From a wise caution about "Letting Sleeping Dogs Lie," to the seeing yourself as a strong and powerful lion in "Lion of Judah: in your mirror" there is definitely something for everyone.

Show goers also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite artwork for the People's Choice award, which will be awarded at February's First Friday. "Living Large" officially opens during First Friday, Jan. 5 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and runs through January 26. The MCA is located at 11 S. Park Ave and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Read It! Trivia Night

Read It! 90s Edition  
Trivia Night  
Thursday, January 11  
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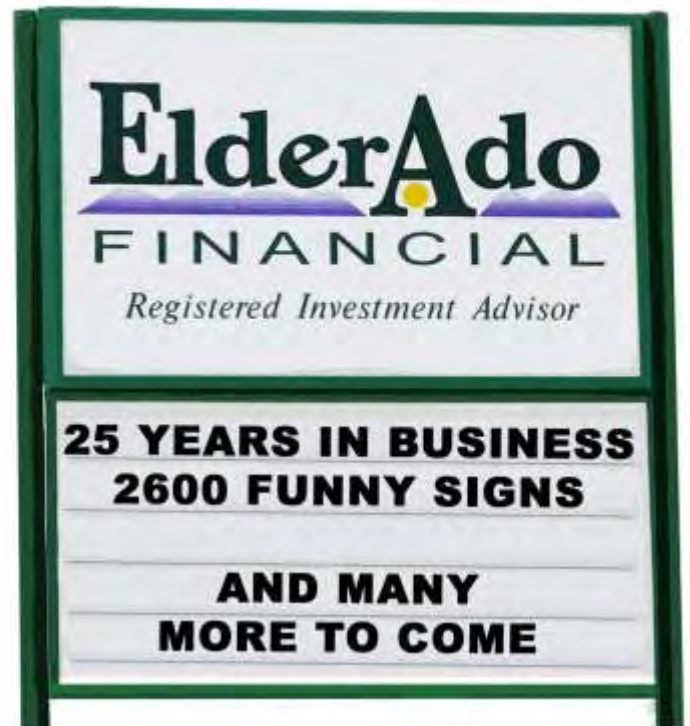
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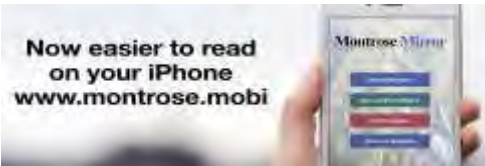


# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH WELCOMES FIRST BABY OF 2024

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**— Jessica and Russell Akers are excited to welcome Brayden Joseph Akers, who was born on 01/02/2024 at 8:11 a.m. at Montrose Regional Health. Brayden was 6 lbs., 5 ounces and 19 inches long and joins his two sisters, Natalie age 9 and Brooklyn age 4. The Akers, who live in Delta, received a gift basket from the Family Center at Montrose Regional Health, which was presented by their nurse, Nikki Soto Parra. The family is excited to have their first boy, who was born on the same day of the year as Russell's Grandpa.



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## **BOCC APPROVES 1ST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR COURTHOUSE** **From pg 1**

is taking people from a present reality to a preferred future. Leuthauser said that the difficulty of leadership is that you have to bring about change, which can be unpopular.

"...With every change, you lose something and you gain something...in order to get to that preferred future you have to lead us through change. "...Father, we thank you for this New Year, and I pray Isaiah 43 over it, which says, forget the former things, do not dwell on the past...Lord I lift up our commissioners, our managers, our leaders...because change is upon us...give them great vision and discernment and bless them in this wonderful effort they are making on our behalf..."

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

### **COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Jon Waschbusch had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioners voted to approve the Consent Agenda as written with Resolution No. 01-2024 added to Consent Agenda Item 11, and Resolution No. 02-2024 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 14.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the award for On-Call Aviation Architectural and Engineering Services, based on FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100E and as reviewed by Counsel, and authorization for the Chair's signature on the contract with Corgan Associates, Inc., effective January 3, 2023. This is a five-year contract for projects subject to federal assistance, in addition to non-federal projects at Montrose Regional Airport and Hopkins Field Airport. Also approved unanimously was an award

for the On-Call Aviation Planning Services, based on FAA Advisory Circular 150/1500E and as reviewed by Counsel, and authorization for the Chair's signature on the contract with Corgan Associates, Inc., effective January 3, 2024. This is a five-year contract for projects subject to federal assistance, in addition to non-federal projects at Montrose Regional Airport and Hopkins Field Airport. Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez presented for consideration and possible approval the first amendment to the Design-Build Contract for the Montrose County Historic Courthouse with a not-to-exceed guaranteed maximum price of \$14,836,132.82. Sanchez said that staff is confident in the price and excited to present the contract for approval. Commissioners voted to approve.

The bid is \$10K less than previously estimated, Hansen noted.

"It's nice to know that building will not just be sitting around in disarray," she said.

The courthouse restoration has been a long time coming, BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, adding that he and Caddy have been talking about it for seven years and that its condition had motivated him to run for office in the first place. "It was a major concern of mine," Rash said, expressing frustration that a previous Board of County Commissioners had chosen to spend money to build an event center rather than renovate the historic courthouse.

Rash also expressed frustration with the federal government and the conditions that had been attached to a USDA grant for the project, a grant which was ultimately declined.

"Now we know why the Federal Government is in such bad financial shape," he said. "...We tried to work with the USDA for two years."

Rash thanked Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez and County Manager Jon Waschbusch for their hard work over the past year to get the project back on track. "Everyone who put their efforts into this, they need to be extremely proud...they absolutely did it in less than a year."

Rash said his late wife had been hurt in the old courthouse. "This one means a lot to me," he said. "This one is for Linda."

County Commissioner Keith Caddy said, "This will be paid for with our money...we're not borrowing a dime."

Commissioners also voted to adopt Resolution 3-2024, regarding the establishment of Mill Levies for levying property taxes for the levy year 2023/budget year 2024.

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Commissioner voted to approve four minor subdivision proposals, including:

- Daniel Rubalcaba Minor Subdivision [MI23-027] proposal to divide one lot from a 38.377-acre parcel at Parcel 372513301002;
- Kevin Minor Subdivision [MI22-010] proposal to divide a 31.584-acre lot into two lots at Parcel 376930203002;
- McDaniels Minor Subdivision [MI23-031] proposal to divide one lot from a 47.31-acre parcel at Parcel 399310403002; and
- Murray Minor Subdivision [MI23-032] proposal to divide 3.160 acres into two lots at Parcel 376731400072.

Commissioners voted to approve the Waters Minor Subdivision [MI23-033] proposal to divide 10.185 acres into three lots at Parcel 376509301002.

Also approved was the 3 Bar M East Estates [MA23-004] proposal to divide 27.12 acres into 8 lots at. Parcel 372523306004.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Commissioners voted to adjourn.





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## MONTROSE COUNTY TREASURER, ROSEMARY MURPHY, ANNOUNCES THE DELAY OF MAILING PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS

*Legislative changes enacted by the Colorado Legislature to accommodate property tax relief will delay the certification of the County tax rolls. The new deadline for the tax roll certification is January 24, 2024. The reason for the delay is to give taxing authorities sufficient time to certify their mill levies and to give county assessors more time to gather data.*

*Please be aware that these changes do not alter the first-half payment due date, February 28, 2024. The Colorado Legislature chose not to extend the payment deadline to ensure that special districts like fire departments, school districts, health districts, hospitals, and other public entities have the revenue to continue to operate.*

*Once the tax roll process is complete, property owners will receive their statements by mail in early February. The property tax amount will be available after February 1<sup>st</sup> at <https://montrosecounty.net/treasurer> by clicking on SEARCH PROPERTY TAX RECORDS. Contact our office at 970 249-3565 or email [etreasurer@montrosecounty.net](mailto:etreasurer@montrosecounty.net) for assistance.*

**MOVING** – The Treasurer’s office along with the Assessor and GIS Offices will be moving to temporary locations in January. The Old Montrose County Courthouse will close for restorations beginning JANUARY 22, 2024.

- ASSESSOR and GIS Offices will reopen January 29, 2024 at 949 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (next to Friendship Hall)
- TREASURER and Public Trustee Offices will reopen February 5, 2024 at 1001 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (southwest entrance of Friendship Hall)

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## OUR DEMOCRACY IS AT STAKE, AND THE CHOICE IS UP TO US

*Editor:*

Once again I am asking what happened to the GOP? The Republican party used to be the one who touted patriotism. Why is the US House of Representatives willing to defund Ukraine against a communist dictator who is intent on reestablishing the USSR? Ronald Reagan, who was instrumental in bringing down the Berlin Wall, must be rolling over in his grave!

President Biden has repeatedly asked for more funding for the US-Mexican border wall to control the stream of illegal immigrants to the US. The Republican majority in the US House of Representatives has continued to thwart those requests because the president is a Democrat. It

seems some of those representatives have forgotten that they serve at the pleasure of the American voters, not that of Donald Trump. Trump apparently thinks global autocrats like Putin have the answers he is

seeking for governing. Our democracy is at stake, and the choice of whether it continues or not is in the hands of the American voters.

*Raye Highland, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE?



*Editor:*

Looking around our region and the State of Colorado we found that there are many citizens involved in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases by tackling broad community wide issues. The State of Colorado has set legal standards for municipalities to meet by certain deadlines. As of now it appears the State will not be able to meet the initial deadlines in 2025, but they are hopeful we can meet the 2030 deadline to reduce our greenhouse emissions by 50% relative to a 2005 benchmark level.

What do these standards and guidelines mean and how can an individual get involved? The issue at hand is greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions can be broken into five main sectors: energy supply, building energy use, transportation, agricultural production and oil and gas production. There are many sources of data detailing the greenhouse gas emissions from each of these sectors, but are they similar across the state? Some areas are making more assertive efforts in greenhouse gas reduction.

San Miguel and Ouray Counties joined together in 2009 to develop their own Climate Action Plan with a final document produced in 2021. Delta County has a citizen's group that has developed a Climate Action Plan. What about where we live? We feel it is time for the Uncompahgre Valley to step forward and start working towards an individualized Climate Action Plan specific to our needs, uses, and emissions. Obviously, we are way behind San Miguel County but as such we can adopt a lot of their techniques and formats to help us develop our own plan. Fortunately, we have found that in terms of power generation DMEA can or will be able to meet the 2025 and 2030 emissions goals as DMEA's power generation is nearly 50 percent from renewable sources. Now we need to get to work on transportation, building use, agricultural emissions and other sources of greenhouse gas emission we identify.

We need this data and we need to discuss how we can make an impact in our community by identifying means of reducing greenhouse gas emission. This is where we need YOUR help. We need experts, we need people who want to help and we need networkers who can communicate our messages in the community. Can YOU help? Text 970-249-3564 if you want to know how you can help. Or attend our next meeting in February to meet us. Thanks!

*Tony Hoag, Montrose*

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# OLATHE PIRATES HOST ANNUAL BORDER BATTLE FOR WOMEN WRESTLERS

By Cliff Dodge

OLATHE-The Olathe Pirates girls' wrestling team hosted the 2024 Border Battle for the distaff side of the wrestling world last weekend and finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the team competition. The field consisted of Olathe, Mead, Woodland Park, Grand Valley, Grand Junction Central, Gunnison, Ignacio, Rifle, Durango, and Moffat County.

The individual wrestlers for the Olathe Pirates finished as follows:

- 120 Sadie Corn (14-7) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and scored 24.0 team points.
- 130 Taylor Armstead (10-10) scored 4 team points.
- 140 Allie Stambaugh (8-3) placed 1<sup>st</sup> and scored 26.0 team points.
- 145 Illeana Diaz (10-7) placed 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 145 Talryn Lowenberg (11-7) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 20.0 team points.
- 155 Aby England (13-6) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 18.0 team points.
- 170 Rachel Robuck (13-6) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and scored 21.0 team points.
- 190 Julie Hernandez (0-3) placed 4<sup>th</sup> and scored 7.0 team points.
- 235 Lynessia Duran (17-4) placed 1<sup>st</sup> and scored 24.0 team points.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## WOLVES: POLITICS AND SCIENCE

By Jan Chastain

COLORADO-In December there were two wolf releases. The first was in Grand County. Our Governor, who was present at the first release, stated that he was excited at this historic moment of re-introducing the species in Colorado. Accompanying him was a wolf activist/environmental expert who announced that this is a return to "re-wilding." Already there has been an attack in Jackson County as recently as a few weeks ago by an existing pack that wandered in from Wyoming in 2021 and has been responsible for killing wildlife and dogs.

I am truly saddened by what has happened.

This was not a scientific decision. This was strictly a political move, initiated by outside money and outside advocates and voted in by a narrow margin by the urban corridor of Boulder, Fort Collins, Denver all Democrat territory who voted that it would be nice to hear the wolf howl again in our state. And besides that, we nasty people killed all the wolves about 80 years ago and now we need to be nice to them and let them come home. Such arrogance that man has decided that just as pawns on a chessboard, this species needs to be in Colorado. This arrogance has caused damage to many species, both domestic and wild, but I digress.

Now that this Democrat decision has

been made, already mentioned as strictly a political move, how are we going to measure the results of the ballot box? Hopefully science will step forward. If we listen to CPW, we have a declining population of elk and deer, especially fawn. The antelope population has suffered a loss of epic proportions during the winter of 22-23. Both the black bear and the mountain lion population are on the increase. So now we have introduced an apex predator, the wolf. This is fact, according to CPW. Another fact, which has been debated, is that the wolf is not an endangered species. So now that the deed is done, how do we measure how well this is working? By the number of elk, deer, fawn, antelope killed? By the number of cows, calves, sheep, lambs, dogs, horses that are killed or maimed? By the number of cows that are too

stressed to gain weight or who abort? By the number of flocks of sheep that are taken out by the wolves training their pups? By the number of dogs torn apart or who can no longer work because they have been traumatized? The list goes on. So far the recommendations made by CPW to prevent depredation, called "conflict minimization and non-lethal measures" are questionable at best in saving the ranch population.

So I beg for science. It's called outcomes. Let's measure not by the number of hairs that are raised on the back of an activist's neck by the howl of a wolf, but by science, research, and hard data about the impact this political decision will have on wildlife and our ranchers' animals, environmentally, economically, and psychologically. And let's hold CPW accountable for the facts.

**CORRECTION-An article on open seats in MM Issue 566 incorrectly stated that Candidate Barbara Bynum was endorsed by the Montrose County Democratic Party (MCDP). MCDP supports all Democrats running in Colorado in 2024. MCDP will not endorse any Democratic candidates until after the primaries on June 25.**

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HAPPY NEW YEAR: 2024 SHOULD BE AN EVENTFUL YEAR

*Editor:*

As 2024 comes upon us, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our law enforcement personnel (officers and staff) for their service and dedication to our community.

It goes without saying that those who 'serve and protect' us, those dedicated servants who are 'always there' for the citizenry and most especially those who put their lives and wellbeing on the line

for us every day and night deserve our unequivocal support.

In Montrose County we are fortunate to have Gene Lillard as our Sheriff. Under his superior leadership and dedication to his lifelong profession of law enforcement, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office will continue to strengthen its long-term viability as it works through the public safety sales tax and competitive recruitment issues that have plagued Montrose County

for far too long.

At this juncture, I feel confident that the citizens of Montrose County will be unwavering in time and effort as we support the MCSO and the challenges that have yet to be worked through as we enter 2024. I urge all of our citizens and voters to be on alert as I look forward to reporting to you "detailed information and events" as they unfold this year.

*William Bennett, Montrose*

## TENETS OF THE TOTALITARIAN LEFT ARE CONFORM, COMPLY, SUBMIT, AND OBEY

*Editor:*

The reaction of the pipsqueaks to Boebert's abdication was a fun illustration. It took me back to Fourth Grade, and all the little mean girls crowing / celebrating the misfortune of a smarter, better, prettier, rival. The mean girls back then couldn't spell either.

I am fortunate to have had a Representative for a few years who, alone in my life, represented me. Now it will be back to business as usual, with the Useless (R) party sending up some unprincipled and pliable drip. Meanwhile the Communist (D) party will hold to their principles of race hate, mass murder of babies, and strict obedience to their Politburo.

The tenets of the Totalitarian Left are conform, comply, Submit, and OBEY.

*Charles Zimmerman, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ARRESTS MADE IN ALLEGED SEX ASSAULT IN OURAY

*CBI News Release*

OURAY-Three people have been arrested in connection to an alleged sexual assault that occurred in Ouray on May 14, 2023.

At the request of the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched a comprehensive investigation involving the alleged sexual assault of a juvenile victim at a home in Ouray earlier this year.

Those arrested include:

Suspect 1- Sexual Assault (F3)  
Gabriel Trujillo (DOB: 12/09/2003) Sexual Assault (F3)  
Ashton Whittington (DOB: 05/13/2005) Sexual Assault (F3)  
Trujillo and Whittington were booked through the Montrose County Jail and are being held on a \$60,000 cash/surety bond. The third suspect, who is not being named because the individual was a juvenile at the time of the incident, was arrested in

Kansas and will be extradited to Colorado. Because of the nature of the allegations involving the juvenile victim at the time of the incident, no further information is releasable at this time. Additionally, the arrest warrants are sealed. This remains an ongoing investigation. The 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office is working with the CBI related to this case. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HOW WILL WE EVER ESTABLISH CIVIL POLITICAL DISCOURSE?

Editor:

After reading Kevin Kuns' (head of the Montrose Democrat party) "thoughtful" commentary in the January 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Mirror, I have reached a conclusion that Mr. Kuns is a "class act." Just which class that might be is for the judgment of your readers to decide. How in the world will we ever establish civil political discourse when party leaders resort to this level of commentary?

Ben Alexander, Montrose

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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## MONTROSE STUDENTS NAMED TO SNHU DEAN'S LIST

Special to the Mirror

MANCHESTER, NH-- James McKnight of Montrose (81401) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Jennifer Willden of Montrose (81401) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



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## ASSESSOR BRINGS FOCUS ON TIF TO MURA *From pg 1*

The 30-page Anderson Analytics report in the MURA board packet is available online.

Bell said, "We've worked on this report for a couple months. Everyone has put in as much information as possible. There are existing projects and those in the pipeline. Debt service is in the presentation. All that we could come up with to get the bigger picture of the MURA are in the report."

**Three specific projects in the Colorado Outdoors pipeline are identified with code names:**

- 1) Project Green (10,000 sq feet mixed use development/retail and residential space)
- 2) Hotel #2 Economy Extended-Stay (Hilton)
- 3) Hotel # 3 Upper-Economy.

Bynum said, "Hotels 1 and 2 are likely?" City Business Development staffer Anthony Russo, said, "Yes. They are building close to the Fairfield to save by sharing services [i.e. housekeeping]."

Councilman Dave Frank felt some of the terminology on the graph titled **Projected Total Net TIF Revenues to MURA** was confusing. He said, "What is prospectives? What does that mean?"

Bell said, "We'll change the language."

Referring to prospects, Bynum said, "Someone could purchase the land, but they could sit on that land for 10 years."

The board felt the graph titled **Projected TIF Revenues & Repayment of MURA Investments** was in fact two different charts that should be separated.

Viewing the charts separately Bynum said, "With no further projects we can pay off the debt already incurred by 2030. But we'll have more projects."

Frank said, "Until 2027 we are accumulating money to reinvest in new projects. I think what I draw from this, in spite of the naysayers, is this is very successful."

Councilman Doug Glaspell said, "The URA can be extended [its life beyond 25 years]."

Bell said, "We don't need to think about that at the moment. The Medical Center we did not incentivize. But it's important and it will generate more [revenue] than the hotel."

Mayor Pro Tem David Reed said, "Is the new hotel comparable to the Fairfield?"



*The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board meeting was held on Jan. 3. Board member and Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes (standing far left) handed out a chart to the board that shows the dollar amount given for project incentives. Hughes said, "Basically [this is] what I want to see. We have to see what we've done in the past in funding site improvements. With Basecamp [incentives], we will never recoup. Historically, 40 percent is what we've been doing. These are mathematical calculations."*

Developer David Dragoo said, "Maybe a little bigger. It's 90 to 100 [rooms] four-stories."

Bell said, "Brad [Hughes] had an idea he proposed to me to get out to the rest of us defining the URA. Staff meets with developers, and we know we don't want to do a lot more residential, so we don't want to bring that before you [the board]. Bring reality mindset to both [staff and board]. General guidelines [for incentives] offer as much as 30 percent or 50 percent of revenues generated."

Hughes, who presented his own chart to the board, said, "Basically [this is] what I want to see. We have to see what we've done in the past in funding site improvements. With Basecamp [apartments], we will never recoup [the incentives]. Historically, 40 percent is what we've been doing. These are mathematical calculations."

**Background:** *Taxing entities (county, fire district, etc.) get their revenue from property tax, while the City of Montrose gets revenue from sales tax. Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes' calculations were*

*based on property tax revenue, rather than sales tax revenue which is flexible.*

*Developers request incentives from MURA for horizontal site improvements and it is not uncommon for them to ask for more money than the actual cost. City Engineer Scott Murphy evaluates each request to ensure they are in line with actual local costs and then makes incentive funding recommendations to the board.*

Speaking about the Hughes chart Bynum said, "I like it. I'd like some consideration [of sales tax revenue] but starting from a property tax perspective."

Frank said, "I like having a set metric. I like the idea. It averages out around 40 percent. If sales tax is not included, it gives us more headroom."

Reed said, "Brad, you have to have some flexibility [in the chart]."

Hughes said, "Reviewing horizontal site improvements, we seem to have an argument about every request that comes before the board."

More than half of the board (City Council and City Manager) look at incentives

# ASSESSOR BRINGS FOCUS ON TIF From previous pg

through the lens of community impact, potential, and investment; however, other board members focus on stewardship of the TIF.

Frank said, "Evaluating projects on whether we "like" it [can be perceived as] the good ole boy [system]."

Hughes said, "This board needs to look at what is going into the development. I see us [the board] as a different role. We do Tax Increment Finance."

**Background on the Medical Center.** In 2022 Colorado Outdoors announced they would open a Medical Center. There was a community outcry because the announcement of a new Medical Center appeared to be in direct competition with Montrose Regional Hospital's new Ambulatory Care Center slated to open in the spring of 2024. The community made it known they did not support MURA providing incentives to the privately-owned Medical Center, which is also slated to open in 2024.

Bell said, "The Medical Center. We decided not to incentivize. There was a lot of feedback that was political. But it will be our most profitable [endeavor]."

Speaking to Hughes, Bynum said, "I see it a little different on our philosophy."

It was noted that the two hotel projects would probably be asking for more incentives than what was given to the Fairfield project simply because costs have increased in the last couple of years.

Bynum asked board members who had not yet "chimed in" on the discussion, to do so.

Tad Rowan said, "I agree with Brad. The role of the board is return on investment. I like the 40 percent line for the board."

Steve Bush also liked Hughes' proposal. He said, "We're trying to bring businesses in to pay off the debt. Leave sales tax and job benefits [out of the equation], base it on property tax."

Glaspell said, "I like having 40 percent as a guide for us."

Allison Howe said, "If 40 percent is top, does that change our role?"

Bell noted that by law, the URA must have a board. He said, "We look at what projects generate revenue. There may be a way we can minimize the subjectivity [in offering incentives]."

It was suggested that incentives could be a minimum of 25 percent and a maximum of 40 percent, which would help staff in negotiating with project developers.

Hughes rejected the idea of a minimum dollar amount to incentivize every project. He said, "Private site improvements are not public improvements."

It should be noted that the City of Montrose can and does give incentives for development and redevelopment which does not involve the MURA board, i.e. waiver of tap fees, street and alley improvements, asbestos clean-up, stabilization, etc.

Bell said, "We will work on defining, work toward a good policy. For the next meeting should we invite D.A. Davidson Co. about borrowing money?" Up to this point the MURA has signed Promissory

Notes from the city; however, moving forward, the MURA will need to find other funding sources.

Although meetings are scheduled for two hours, Chair Bynum would like to keep them to 90 minutes. She felt they could conduct board business and also entertain a presentation from D.A. Davidson at the next meeting in that amount of time.

**Future meetings:**

Feb. 14, 2024 – 1:30 to 3:30.

March 20, 2024 – 1:30 to 3:30

**MURA Background:** The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoos' Mayfly Outdoors. The Dragoos Developers are son David Dragoos and father Doug Dragoos.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Steve Bush (Montrose School District) and Allison Howe (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency hold the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

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## COACH'S CORNER: RYAN VOEHRINGER VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH



*Coach Ryan Voehringer. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys' basketball team, unbeaten in their first nine games, (all of which were played on the road) are currently ranked # 3 in the 5A CHSAA state ranking. When asked about this development, Coach Voehringer had this to say, "I don't usually pay too much attention to the rankings. There are some really good teams that are ranked below us, and our schedule has not been as difficult as some of those teams below us. All we can do is play and beat the teams on our schedule and let the chips fall where they may."

When asked about the progress of his team, Voehringer said, "We are coming together as a team playing very well offensively. Our big kid is playing great, 19 points a game and almost 10 rebounds a game, and our other kids stepping up and playing great. The easy part of our schedule is now complete and it's going to get a

lot tougher starting next week."

The 3-point shots from behind the arc have been troublesome to the Red Hawks in the early season. When asked about the 3-point offense, the coach explained, "Outside shooting is definitely not one of our strong points, and it's not one of our focuses either. Our focus is obviously to get the ball inside. We like to go inside first and then outside. We have a bunch of set plays to get outside shots. Our focus is to get the ball inside, down low, get to the bucket and then shoot free throws. We have got to shoot better from outside. When we get into league play, teams are going to double, even triple-team Kaleb Ferguson. When that happens our other players are wide open and we must take advantage of that. Our kids take good shots, just sometimes the ball will not go down."

The subject of the discussion turned to the Southwestern League and the coach's thoughts as to how things would shake out when the dealing was done. Coach Voehringer said, "No doubt right now Fruita-Monument is the team to beat. They are sitting at 10-0, number one in 6A. I have watched film of Fruita. They are big, athletic, they have excellent guard play. They have a 6-6 wing kid, and they are very well coached. Grand Junction is really big, athletic, they have a new coach who played at Mesa. Our league is really good. There are no off nights in league play this year. You had better bring your A game every night. That is what you want as a coach, to play those teams and get ready for the playoffs."

The focus of the discussion moved to the Red Hawks next two games, which will be played in Grand Junction and Palisade. Voehringer pointed out the Red Hawks

travel to take on the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School.

He said, "We have Grand Junction Central up there on Tuesday. We haven't won up there in a couple of years. The Warriors are not big but play about eight guys, shoot the ball very well from the perimeter--quick, athletic, they spread you out. So it will be a battle of our size vs their speed. Then we go to Palisade. Same deal, they don't have much size but they have four good guards, spread you out, run the weave, get to the rim. We have to stay out of foul trouble and we need to improve our shooting from the 3-point line."

On Jan. 16 the Red Hawks finally get to play on their home floor as they take on the Glenwood Springs Demons. Coach Voehringer said, "I believe the Demons have the best personnel that we will have seen this year. They have eight seniors who are big and athletic. They have a 6-3 kid who is one of the best players here on the western slope."

The Red Hawks have heard Coach talk about what happens next. Coach said, "We have to play our best every game now as we move into the stretch and head for the playoffs. There are no more soft touches on the schedule. Every team we play now will come to play. I don't think we play anyone, perhaps one team, who will not be in the playoffs come tournament time.

"Our game is defense. You know that defense travels. There are times when the offense stalls, and you rely on your bedrock defense to keep you in games. Even the best players in the world have off nights, so we have got to be able to guard and to rebound if we are to be around come tournament time."







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# COACH'S CORNER: NEIL SAMPLES RED HAWKS HEAD WRESTLING COACH



**Wrestling Coach Neil Samples. Photo by Cliff Dodge.**

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Christmas holidays interrupted the high school sports schedules, but now that Christmas and New Years are behind us the sports teams are ready to get back at it. Coach Neil Samples transported his grapplers to the Gunnison Tournament on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the Tracy Borah Duals, also in Gunnison, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January.

When asked about the first half of this year's schedule, Coach Samples was honest and blunt. He said, "Not great. It has been kind of rough. We have dealt with some injuries and some sicknesses and stuff that kind of kept a lot of our varsity kids out. We had a good tournament at CMU and then the last two weeks with the problems it really messed our team up

a little bit. When you don't have your full team competing, it just makes it kind of rough. Not the greatest first part of the year but we sort of expected that some of the difficulties we were trying to get through the first half of the year would be solved."

When asked about the large imbalance between home contests and road games, they tended to be scheduling issues rather than having to do with geography, Samples said. "I would like to say yes, but most of our duals are within our league which is G. J. Central, G. J., Fruita-Monument, Durango, and we usually dual Delta and Palisade along with Olathe. I am not sure why we had only three home meets; we usually have four or five home meets. It should be more balanced. We dual these teams but somehow it just got more unbalanced than usual. We hope for a different result next year."

Samples noted that this is the time when the real competition starts. He suggested that the first part of the season is a kind of warm up, to work out the kinks, get over the injuries and get ready for competition-which includes the Regionals and the State Championship.

Coach Samples was happy to talk about his team. "We have a good group of seniors. We have three of them returning, state qualifiers and state placers.

"This is a good group of leaders to kind of lead the way for these freshman and sophomores who are pretty darn good themselves. We have a decent amount of

seniors, we have virtually no juniors, and then we have lot of sophomores and freshmen. Our young kids are pretty darn good wrestlers and they can compete with a lot of kids at state so they will continue to improve."

Samples is most pleased with the turnout for the varsity and the junior varsity wrestling teams. He said the wrestling loft plays host to approximately 40 wrestlers. When asked about feeder system, Samples explained, "We have the Montrose wrestling club downtown. They kind of get these kids when they are younger and begin to teach the basics of wrestling to a wide variety of kids who will one day participate at the high school level. This is a youth program that becomes a feeder system for our program at the high school level. These kids participate in tournaments beginning at a very young age and become interested in the program."

As Coach Samples talked about his team, he said, "Our varsity team can compete with anybody in the state of Colorado and they just have to believe in themselves. When these kids wrestle without fear, without worrying about losing, they are good wrestlers. That's all I can hope for. That is what we try to push every day at practice. Compete as hard as you can, do your best at the regionals and hopefully qualify for State. I tell the team their record is 0-0 going into the regionals. Anybody is beatable and if you want to win, it is entirely up to you. You control your own destiny."



## COACH'S CORNER: STEVE SKIFF RED HAWKS GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Red Hawks girls' basketball team finished the pre-holiday portion of their schedule sporting a 7-2 record. Head coach Steve Skiff commented, "Games one and nine were learning experiences, while the seven games in the middle of games one and nine were good. We have some kids that are returning that are playing very well for us. Taygan Rocco, Maggie Legg and Mayce Oberg are playing well for us. We have several other kids who are stepping up and making a difference. The younger players are getting a chance to play at varsity speed and gain some confidence. The team fits together well and as we play games we iron out the rotation, the substitution patterns, and understand the strengths of each of the players."

When talking about games one and nine Skiff said, "We ran into a tough Rocky Mountain Lobo's team right out of the box. They are a well-coached 6A team and we were a bit shorthanded. That Pagosa Springs tournament was a good tournament for us because good teams were waiting for us. We saw Rocky Mountain and then we saw Pagosa Springs which is a good 4A team. And then we saw Delta, which is a battle for us wherever we play them. The Kent-Denver game was good for us even though we did not win. We learned a lot about what it's going to take to play good caliber teams. It was as simple as they made shots down the stretch and we didn't. I was most pleased with our attitude and our hustle with no quit in any of our players."

Coach Skiff then spoke about leadership on this team. "We have good senior leadership. We have Taygan, Haven and Kenzie. They bring energy, they are experi-

enced players having played a lot of varsity basketball. Kenzie is our leader on defense. The stats may not stand out, but she is our star. She always gets the other team's best player and shuts them down and her defense then allows us to do other things because of her efforts on the defensive end."

One of the best features this team exhibits is the cohesion and togetherness regardless of who is on the floor.

"We have a good rotation and we don't lose anything when we go to our bench. This is one of the best athletic teams we have had and this allows us to get up and down the floor and put pressure on the opponents. We have three seniors, two juniors, and five sophomores. As you can see we are still pretty young and getting reps for the young players simply makes us better down the road."

Coach Skiff then spoke about being excited to open up Southwestern League play. "League play is always very tough no matter the year, the circumstances, no matter who has graduated. These are five schools that are going to battle all year. Fruita is almost always the favorite to win this thing. But having said that, any school can beat any other school on any night, so there will be upsets and outcomes no one will see coming. We open up with Central at Central on Tuesday and they have two of the best guards in the entire league. They can score, they can defend, they can handle the ball, so we are going to have to be ready to go and meet the challenge."

The Colorado High School Activities Association Class 5A rankings has the Red Hawks resting comfortably in sixth place. When asked about the rankings Skiff said, "I don't put a lot of stock in the rankings



**Red Hawks Girls Basketball Coach Steve Skiff. Photo by Cliff Dodge.**

at this time of year. Perhaps when we are heading for the Regionals and the state tournament we will dive in, but not at this juncture. We currently are ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the state. I think it is nice for the girls to be ranked up there, but we have to be ready to play each and every game and if we do that, the ranking will take care of itself."

Coach Skiff then got to the heart of the matter. He said, "Our main strength is our ability to play defense. We have got to shut teams down and our goal is to go out there and make teams earn it. We cannot give up a bunch of cheap baskets and expect to win, so defense is our key. I have been pleased with our team defense. We have been able to do some things with pressing and man-to-man defense that really bothers opponents."

Some things never go out of style.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## BIDEN WILL CONTINUE TRAVELING THE WORLD WITH HIS SON, COLLECTING KICKBACKS FROM OUR ENEMIES, AS THE WORLD INCHES CLOSER TO WWII

*Editor:*

I try to avoid responding to Kevin Kuns opinions because I prefer challenging opinions from Democrats that I find less likeable, but sometimes I just can't resist. Kuns recently celebrated Boebert's withdrawal from the CD3 congressional race (MM 1/1) deeming it a "Christmas Miracle" and calling Boebert a "self-serving, delusional, carpet bagger". This reminded me of how differently Republicans and Democrats handle their own members when they are in error. Long Island Republican George Santos, whose tapestry of lies made him an object of ridicule, was recently expelled from the Republican controlled House for his actions. Bob Menendez, New Jersey Democrat Senator for 17+ years, whose corrupt deeds are far worse than anything Santos has ever done, still sits in his cushy seat in the Democrat controlled Senate. Menendez faces charges of being a foreign agent and accepting bribes from Egypt, and now Qatar. A laundry list of incriminating evidence (\$400,000 cash stuffed in clothing, gold bars, e-mails, etc.) make his claims of innocence laughable.

Boebert lost support from many of her conservative constituents when she acted inappropriately at a Denver theater. Meanwhile her Democrat opponent in CD3 Adam Frisch can do no wrong in the eyes of his supporters. They want so badly to believe his campaign rhetoric painting him as a moderate with rural values, fighting for local issues. There are at least two things wrong with that illusion. First,

Frisch's questionable actions while serving on the Aspen City Counsel and his family history show him to be anything other than a family man sharing rural voters' values. Second, he insults CD3 voters by thinking they are not concerned about "national issues that dominate the political coverage." Frisch can't really disclose where he stands on national issues and how closely he supports Biden's destructive agenda, so he has to pretend to focus on local issues. Can you imagine how quickly a Republican would be dropped by his supporters if that person was credibly accused by an Aspen businessman of being caught having sex in a storage unit with his married mistress? Would you also be certain that if a Republican politician was also accused of being successfully blackmailed after that alleged adultery into changing his vote on a local Aspen issue, that person's political career would be over? Not so if that person is a Democrat. Many Democrats will totally support the fact that Frisch's father is a physician with a long history in the abortion industry. In a fundraising e-mail, Frisch indicated that his dad "helped train the next generation of health care providers at Planned Parenthood. And my sister ..... is continuing in his legacy." I can guarantee that conservative voters in CD3 will disagree with Frisch labeling their pro-life position as "extreme." Look up "dilation and evacuation abortion", which usually occurs within the 13th to 24th week of pregnancy.

Frisch's father published an analysis show-

ing that barbaric procedure to be safe. Rich Aspenite liberals will be OK with abortion being the family business, but most CD3 voters will have trouble reconciling their rural values with the celebration of abortion.

With his apparent family involvement, Frisch has made his position clear on the national issue of abortion.

Like a typical Democrat during a campaign, Frisch can't really disclose his position on most other national issues. He will have to give lip service to opposing an open border, but would do nothing to stop the invasion after the election.

He won't want to talk about Bidenomics, record inflation, unaffordable mortgages, and record homelessness. Or weaponizing federal law enforcement and the courts, intentionally fueling racial hatred and polarization, and advancing extreme agendas like destroying women's sports. Or out-of-control crime, defunding and demonizing the police, and Democrat DAs re-defining criminals as victims. Or gun confiscation.

Frisch wants to define any opposition to Biden's destructive policies as "extremist" Like another area politician named Coram, he will avoid talking about national issues as much as possible and pretend to be a "good-ol'-boy" wanting to solve local issues by "reaching across the aisle."

Meanwhile Biden will continue traveling around the world with his son collecting kickbacks from our enemies, as the world inches closer to WWII.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY MOVES FORWARD WITH HISTORIC COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose County Commissioners celebrated a major milestone this week with the approval of the construction contract for the historic courthouse renovation. The amended contract with Stryker and Company established a guaranteed price of less than \$14,836,132.82.

"This is an exciting moment for Montrose County," declared Commissioner Sue Hansen. "Initial estimates were high. I appreciate the strong work of our staff, Stryker and Company, and Blythe Group. This price tag is affordable, responsible, and allows the county to restore this landmark to its full glory for generations to come."

In July, the county signed a contract with Montrose-based Stryker and Company. The contract had two phases—one for design and one for the final design and construction. As part of the contract, Stryker and Company presented a guaranteed maximum price to the county in late December. Construction will begin on the courthouse in February. Officials estimate completion in late 2025.

"The Stryker and Company team is incredibly excited to be a part of the rehabilitation of this historical landmark," began

Stryker and Company President/Owner Scott Stryker. "We have been watching this project since it was first talked about and now, we're 30 days away from stepping foot into rehabilitating this building for the next generation. Having a long, local presence in this town give us great pride in the work we will be doing over the next 20 months. Our goal is to keep as much of the work to our local subcontractors and only reach out when a specialty trade is necessary. We're grateful for the trust that the county has given us to see this project through to its completion."

The money for the project comes from the capital improvement fund in 2024 and 2025.

Commissioner Keith Caddy emphasized the project's financial responsibility as he noted, "This project is fully funded, without any debt burden. We are a conservative board and work hard to safeguard taxpayer dollars. After saving for this project for years, we are able to invest in the courthouse debt-free."

"This has been a labor of love for seven years, and I'm happy to see it finally come to life," said Commissioner Roger Rash.

"This board was committed to creating a

building that meets the needs of county employees and services for several decades to come. Working with our fellow elected officials, as well as county division heads, and staff, the team incorporated modern efficiencies and prioritized historic preservation. Our goal is that the courthouse will continue to serve the community for another 100 years."

To prepare for construction, the Treasurer's Office, the Assessor's Office, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Offices will relocate to temporary locations beginning Jan. 22. Relocation information is listed below.

The Montrose County Historic Courthouse renovation is a testament to the dedication and collaboration of the Board of County Commissioners, staff, Stryker and Company, Inc., and subcontractor Blythe Group. This project will not only preserve a cherished landmark but also create a vibrant space for generations to come, solidifying the courthouse as the cornerstone of Montrose County history and future.

### **Relocation Information:**

ASSESSOR and GIS Offices: Reopening January 29, 2024 at 949 N 2nd Street (next to Friendship Hall)

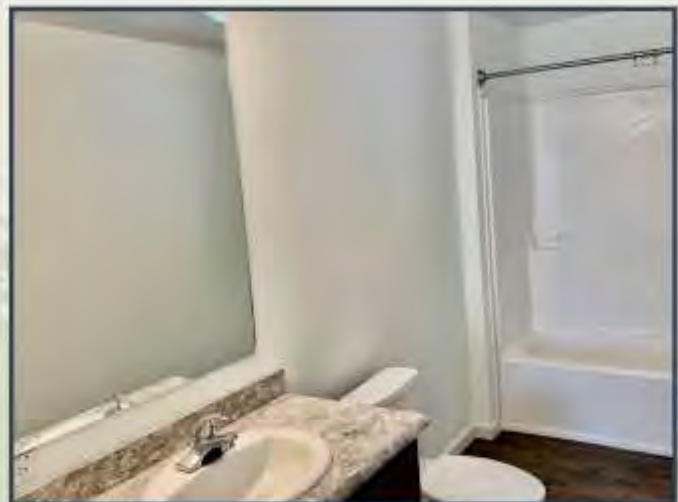
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# CITY COUNCIL TACKLES FULL AGENDA DURING FIRST WORK SESSION OF NEW YEAR



**Council considered the Daily Bread Building Asbestos Abatement Request; the building that housed the bakery is a staple of Montrose's Downtown but has been in need of upgrades for a very long time, City Business development Employee Russo said. Photo by B. Switzer.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the regular city council work session at 10am on Tuesday, Jan. 2. All councilors were present, as well as a number of city staff.

Work sessions are a chance for city council and staff to go over many different agenda items, Bynum said, "...Council doesn't vote at work sessions, so there is no opportunity for general public comment...we are going to jump right in... we have quite a few this morning to talk about."

Bynum introduced City Business Development employee Anthony Russo, who discussed the 1910 Market and Restaurant Project, planned for 232, 238, & 242 E. Main Street. Applicants Dixon Walne and Lindsey Fishing were present for the discussion. Russo presented detailed information on the project, with the funds to be paid back over a two-year window. Fishing said that the restaurant will provide a strong opportunity for local producers and will refresh the corner of Main and Townsend. "...we want a seasonally rotating menu... we're really highlighting producers in the area...we're really trying to bring this whole building back to life..." The building has been neglected for decades, Fishing said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked about parking near the restaurant, which is still being considered. Glaspell asked also for

more lighting in the alley; Councilor Ed Ullibarri mentioned concerns over parking as well.

Those concerns were not relevant to the current discussion, Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed said.

City Manager Bill Bell shared information as well.

Mayor Bynum wrapped up the discussion, "As council we represent this community...one thing I hear a lot is, 'you should make there be more restaurants Downtown'...I'm super excited about the possibility of activating this particular corner..."

**Background-**A staff report included in the [work session packet](#) states, "If approved as requested, the applicant will receive \$160,195 to support the purchase of a full kitchen to be used by 1910 Restaurant and, in support of, an adjacent Retail Market. The kitchen will be the property of Twinso Holdings, LLC, and will remain with the building. This discussion was started in early 2023 and the kitchen application has been expected for several months. The difference in the kitchen cost and ask is due to the removal of several items that were not covered under the grant program."

The project is described, "Property will be a mixed-use development (restaurant/market/ 4 housing units) with indoor & outdoor seating. The restaurant will (serve) bistro style food with a full bar. The market will serve scratch made prepared foods for dine in or carry out, bakery, groceries, and products made by other local producers."

Council considered the Daily Bread Building Asbestos Abatement Request; the building that housed the bakery is a staple of Montrose's Downtown but has been in need of upgrades for a very long time, Russo said. Total Estimated Project Cost is \$1,917,406; the budget request is \$98,375.97. A summary sheet on the City Manager's letterhead shares information on behalf of the applicant, Craig Hasto: "...This Historic building is currently occupied by a mental Health facility, salon, barbershop. We currently are getting ready to repurpose the upstairs for 6 office spaces. The old Daily Bread and Creative

Corner will become a new full-service restaurant and bar. This request is focused on the removal of asbestos from the building. Extract was chosen by us because of the amount of savings they were offering compared to their competitors. They were the only company to come in under a \$100,000. All other bids were 120k and up...They required a down deposit of 50 percent which we paid to lock in this savings and to get us on the schedule. Getting this asbestos out is a must considering it's everywhere. In order to get finalizing bids, we need to see what is underneath the asbestos to move forward. Our goal is to restore this historical building back to its original form while updating and complying with today's current codes...Costs to restore and renovate the downtown building have been increasing steadily. As a general contractor, I am attempting to mitigate cost wherever possible. We found asbestos in the building that must be removed before work can commence. A tenant is already prepared to move into the restaurant space downtown."

Council considered the Flex Park Construction Contract Award, a request to approve \$424,137.37 in expenditures for construction of the Colorado Outdoors Flex Park. This includes the award of a construction contract to Skip Huston Construction in the amount of \$399,937.37 and a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$24,200.

**Background-**A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy to Council notes that the park is to be constructed on a parcel of land being donated to the City of Montrose by the developers of Colorado Outdoors. This donation has been secured through a memorandum of agreement and has an appraised value of \$350k. Once donation documents are finalized, this will also come before City Council around March of 2024.

Council heard a design update and presentation for the new City Hall façade, followed by a Montrose City Hall Facade Project CMGC Contract Award Recommendation. Council will consider authorizing \$2,837,467.17 for the construction of

# CITY COUNCIL TACKLES FULL AGENDA DURING FIRST WORK SESSION OF NEW YEAR *From previous pg*

the façade replacement project on City Hall. This will include a contract amendment with FCI Constructors for the services of Construction Manager General Contractor (CMGC) in the amount of \$2,424,228.

Council spent time discussing the Deed of Easement Authorization for Rathbone Hotel. The City of Montrose will consider granting Rathbone PropCo LLC a utility easement and access easement along the western property line of the former City of Montrose City Hall Property located at 433 S. 1st St. Ordinances for the easements are included in the [work session packet](#).

Also considered was approval of Year 2 of the Street Light Upgrade Project, in partnership with DMEA, for an amount of \$120,000.

**Background-**A memo from Public Works

Manager Jim Scheid to Council states, "The City of Montrose currently has approximately 1,900 streetlights on a variety of street types and most of these fixtures are High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) or Mercury Vapor (MV) fixture type. These fixtures were originally installed in the 1950s and 1960s and have been the primary fixture type for street lighting until 2010 when the LED fixtures were introduced to the market. Over the last 10 years, as the HPS or MV fixtures have failed or needed replacement they have been replaced with a Light-emitting Diode (LED) fixture. The City of Montrose successfully initiated the first year of the Street Light Upgrade Project in 2023, partnering with DMEA. This successful year has led to the replacement of over 400 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs, resulting in an impressive monthly electricity savings of \$4,000, approximately

\$50,000 annually. Based on this success, it is proposed to continue this project into its second year."

Scheid and Fleet Manager Shane Brandt presented the 2024 Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Recommendation. [All vehicles and information](#) are included in the work session packet.

Planning Manager Jace Hochwalt presented the [2024 Annual Annexation Report and 3-Mile Plan](#).

### STAFF REPORTS

Scheid and Streets Division Superintendent Nik Pridy gave a [Public Works Snow Operations and Website Update](#).

Councilor Dave Frank offered kudos to staff for the Holiday events Downtown. "It's great to hit the New Year running, what a great full agenda," Mayor Bynum said, and reminded all of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 6pm.

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## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SURESTAY PLUS BY BEST WESTERN MONTROSE DEBUTS IN COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The SureStay Plus by Best Western Montrose has opened its doors in Montrose, Colorado, and invites travelers to experience one of the newest hotel brands in the industry — SureStay® Hotels, comprised of four distinctive brands offering traditional and longer stay travelers' comfort and value while away from home.

The SureStay Plus by Best Western Montrose provides guests with an experience they can count on, and the amenities today's travelers have come to expect. SureStay's service promise reflects the brand and the hotel's commitment to providing quality service and value to its guests.

Located at 1655 E Main St. in Montrose, Colorado, the hotel features 45 well-appointed guest rooms, including two dedicated suites. After recently undergoing a refresh, the hotel debuts brand-new carpets and paint throughout the property. Each guest room is furnished with flat screen TVs, mini fridges and microwaves, and guests will also enjoy amenities including a refreshed indoor pool and hot tub and complimentary hot breakfast. The

SureStay Plus by Best Western Montrose also offers a full-service business center with complimentary printing, faxing, scanning and computers, and free wireless internet.

"The Montrose area offers an abundance of exciting activities and memories to be made, and we want the SureStay Plus by Best Western Montrose to be at the heart of that," said Dave Panas, Managing Director of Operations for the SureStay Hotels. "With so much to do nearby, a SureStay property was the ideal choice for this location as it provides the opportunity for guests to stay comfortably and conveniently."

The property's location is optimal for guests interested in exploring the region's nature offerings. From its traveler-friendly trails and scenic byways to the historic downtown, interactive museums and local breweries on Main Street, the city is a welcome gateway to Colorado's Western Slope. A must see is Black Canyon National Park where visitors can hike, drive, kayak or climb, or the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area to explore the scenery through whitewater canoeing or horseback riding. Montrose's dining, boutique



*Courtesy photo.*

shopping and entertainment options are also a popular lure as the historic downtown provides pubs, galleries and the Montrose Antique Trail.

"Our hotel offers the most value and quality service for travelers that want to explore everything our region has to offer," said Walter Barela, Owner of the SureStay Plus by Best Western Montrose. "Whether our guests are business travelers or adventure seekers looking a place to rest their heads and rejuvenate after a long day in the outdoors, we are pleased to provide anything they may need."

Reservations may be booked by calling (800) 780-7234 or by visiting [BestWestern.com](http://BestWestern.com).

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# CITY COUNCIL AWARDS CONTRACT FOR BALDRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum called the [regular meeting](#) of Tuesday, Jan. 2 to order at 6pm. “Good evening!” Bynum said and led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed added one item to the [meeting agenda](#), the asbestos abatement proposal for the former Daily Bread building.

**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

After saying that this was not the time to comment on agenda items, Bynum asked for a show of hands of possible commenters on non-agenda items. Upon seeing no hands raised, Mayor Bynum embarked upon a lengthy explanation of the rules for those who might wish to comment on agenda items.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Bynum read the items on the [Consent Agenda](#); Council voted unanimously to approve.

**ORDINANCE 2653 - SECOND READING**

Bynum recused from the discussion and vote on Ordinance 2653, as it involved her neighborhood.

With Mayor Bynum abstaining, Council held a brief public hearing before voting to approve Ordinance 2653 on Second Reading, creating the Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District.

Several citizens spoke to thank Council for their support, including HOA Board President Christina Files and residents Becky Waugh and Mary Bergner.

**ASBESTOS ABATEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FORMER DAILY BREAD BUILDING**

Council voted four-to-one in favor of funding in the amount of \$98,375.97 for asbestos abatement in the historic Daily Bread/Creative Corner building at 344/346 E. Main Street. Councilor Ed Ulibarri voted “No.”

**COBBLE CREEK WEST UTILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT**



*Council voted to approve award of a contract for the Baldrige Park Master Plan to Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC (BDM&P) of Portland, Maine. Meeting screenshot.*

As previously discussed, Council voted to approve a utility service agreement with Chipeta Water District and Weststar Development, LLC to provide City of Montrose water service to the Cobble Creek West Addition.

**NORTH WOODGATE EXTENSION PHASE II MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

Council voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of agreement with the Marketplace West Condominium Association to create the framework for right of way acquisition and completion of the North Woodgate Extension Project's second phase.

**2024 ANNUAL ANNEXATION REPORT AND 3-MILE PLAN**

Council voted to adopt the 2024 Annual Annexation Report and 3-mile Plan.

**BLOWERS ADDITION ANNEXATION**

Mayor Bynum opened a public hearing. Applicant Don Blowers was present for the discussion and expressed some unanswered questions; he was directed to speak with staff to work through concerns.

Council voted on First Reading to approve Resolution 2024-01, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Blowers Addition and Ordinance 2654 on First Reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, for the annexation of the Blowers Ad-

dition. Council also voted to approve Ordinance 2655 on First Reading, providing for the zoning of the Blowers Addition as an RL Rural Living District.

Bynum directed Planning Manager Jace Hochwalt to work with the applicants to arrange a time to meet and resolve concerns before the second reading of the resolution and ordinance.

**2024 BALDRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN AWARD RECOMMENDATION**

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted to approve award of a contract for the Baldrige Park Master Plan to Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC (BDM&P) of Portland, Maine in the amount of \$174,048.

**2024 ASPHALT CRUSHING AWARD RECOMMENDATION**

The 2024 Asphalt crushing award recommendation was approved as well, awarding a Professional Services Agreement to Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC, for asphalt crushing at the City's Material Storage Yard in the amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.

**STAFF REPORTS**

There were no staff reports.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

“Happy New Year,” Reed said. Bynum thanked everyone for a long and productive day, and the meeting was adjourned.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THE CITY OF DELTA IS LOOKING BACKWARDS SO THEY CAN MOVE FORWARD TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

*Editor:*

The City of Delta is developing projects that will ultimately reduce greenhouse gas production in the city. The projects involve stabilizing the City's electrical system and rebuilding the inside of the historic Armory building that hasn't been used for 40 years into their new Public Safety Center. The installation of new updated breaker box and HVAC systems for the building will transition the old gas boiler to an all electric building that will supply all mechanical, heating and air conditioning. Based on the redesign and shift to electrification, the cost for HVAC and electrical increased the project cost by over \$300,000 because of the shift away from a new gas system. Fortunately, the City was able to offset the increased costs through grant programs, and will be able to reduce energy costs going forward as cheaper green energy becomes more available. With the electrification of the buildings, greenhouse emissions will be sharply reduced as the City supplies its own electricity with a 50% estimate of renewable energy sources.

The City of Delta is also actively engaged in greening their electric grid through the development of renewable energy including solar, wind, and hydro power with

their power provider Municipal Energy Association of Nebraska.. To help the City increase their renewable energy portfolio they are also building a 6-7 acre solar field near Confluence Park.

Ultimately the solar field will connect with a microgrid, further reducing the emergency fuels needed to supply electricity when the grid is down.

Delta's microgrid project will incorporate several energy sources and the goal is to add a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generation source that would provide power for part of the community in the event of a shortfall or prolonged outage. The CHP would include natural gas, the solar field, and it would reduce their carbon footprint, capturing up to 50 percent of the heat used by the Community Center to heat its pool water. This would offset the natural gas used in the heating of the pool water.

This proposed project by the City of Delta directly supports Goal 2 of the Delta County Hazard Mitigation Plan: "Protect critical infrastructure and lifeline utilities from impacts of hazards". This project will directly support the objective of "minimizing the loss of critical services and infrastructure during and after hazard events. "An area has been defined by the City that will

be supported by the Microgrid in an emergency, would include a grocery store, three fuel stations, seven restaurants, a hotel, 2 RV parks and a community center that is also a designated Red Cross Shelter.

The combination of three projects for the City of Delta will follow the long-term goals of the City to maintain its downtown buildings instead of building new ones. It will recycle an old building keeping huge amounts of debris from entering the landfill, decrease the net effect of carbon emissions needed to build a new building by maintaining the structure of an old building, electrify the New Police Public Safety Building instead of using natural gas, build a new one Megawatt solar field that will help to add renewable energy to their energy portfolio, and establish a microgrid that can be the center of safety and shelter during a crisis.

The people of Delta are fortunate to have such a forward looking government serving them.

These projects will pay many benefits for the citizens of Delta for many years, will save the City money over time and reduce the City's carbon footprint by limiting greenhouse emissions. Congratulations Delta!

*Tony Hoag, Montrose*

**SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING**



**970-249-8500**

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL  
**CRIME STOPPERS**

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HOUSE REPUBLICANS ANNOUNCE 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER-- Minority Leader Mike Lynch (R-Wellington) announced the Republican appointments to House committees of reference for the 2nd Regular Session of the 74th General Assembly.

"Our caucus is lucky to have a diverse group of members whose backgrounds provide valuable insights to our House committees," said Lynch.

"Our appointments ensure our constituents' voices are best represented on these committees and that the priorities of our caucus are met," added Lynch.

The newly created Health & Human Services Committee which will take the place of the Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee and the Health Insurance Committee will consist of Republican Representatives Mary Bradfield (R-Colorado Springs), Brandi Bradley (R-Roxborough), Richard Holtorf (R-Akron), and Ron Weinberg (R-Loveland).

Additional changes include Rep. Matt Soper (R-Delta) to the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee; Rep. Stephanie Luck (R-Penrose) to the Appropriations Committee; Rep. Scott Bottoms (R-Colorado Springs) to the Energy & Environment Committee;

and Rep. Bradley will also join the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

The complete list of Republican House assignments on committees of reference can be found below:

**Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee**

- Representative Catlin
- Representative Holtorf
- Representative Soper
- Representative Winter

**Appropriations Committee**

- Representative Bottoms
- Representative Frizell
- Representative Luck
- Representative Bockenfeld
- Business Affairs & Labor Committee
- Representative Armagost
- Representative Frizell
- Representative Taggart
- Representative Weinberg

- Education Committee
- Representative Bradfield
- Representative Hartsook
- Representative Pugliese
- Representative Wilson

**Energy & Environment Committee**

- Representative Bottoms
- Representative Evans
- Representative DeGraaf
- Representative Winter

**Finance Committee**

- Representative Frizell
- Representative Hartsook
- Representative Taggart
- Representative Weinberg

**Health & Human Services Committee**

- Representative Bradfield
- Representative Bradley
- Representative Holtorf
- Representative Weinberg

**Judiciary Committee**

- Representative Armagost
- Representative Evans
- Representative Luck
- Representative Soper

**State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee**

- Representative Armagost
- Representative Bottoms
- Representative DeGraaf

**Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee**

- Representative Bradley
- Representative Catlin
- Representative Wilson



Your representative form of government starts at your County Caucus and then to the County Assembly. In this critical election year, sitting on the sidelines allows someone else to decide who represents you in County, State, and Federal Government.

**SUPER TUESDAY**  
 Tuesday, March 5, 2024 • Colorado Presidential Primary Election

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS**  
 Thursday, March 7, 2024 • Registration starting at 5:30 PM  
 Montrose High School Cafeteria for all Precincts except Precinct 1  
 Naturita Community Center for Precinct 1

**MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY ASSEMBLY**  
 Saturday, March 23, 2024 • Credentialing starts at 8:00 AM  
 Centennial Middle School Gym for all Montrose County

**SCOTT RIBA FOR**

970-596-9998 [scott@scottformontrose.com](mailto:scott@scottformontrose.com)

**MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
paid for by the Committee to Elect Scott Riba Montrose County Commissioner

**FOR SALE**

**Cimarron Creek Community**  
**Lot#1400\***

January Special  
**\$10,000**  
\*Off Listed Price

Cimarron Creek land leased manufactured home community is conveniently located, allowing access to shopping and the vast outdoor opportunities that Western Colorado has to offer. Cimarron Creek offers a clubhouse, walking trails, mature landscaping, community gardens and on site management.

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- RV Storage
- 1344 ft<sup>S</sup>



(970) 249-0493  
 cimarroncreekcommunity.com  
 manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com  
 901 65.30 Road # 1000 Montrose, CO 81401

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## WORKPLACE DISAGREEMENT RESULTS IN SHOTS FIRED, ONE KILLED. SUSPECT ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH FIRST DEGREE MURDER

### Delta County Sheriff's Office

DELTA-On Thursday, January 4, 2024 at approximately 9:44 am, the Delta County Emergency Communication Center received a 9-1-1 call from an individual stating his boss had just been shot at a ranch in the 10,000 block of Payne Siding Road near Austin, CO. Deputies with the Sheriff's Office responded to the scene along with crews from North Fork EMS. Upon arrival, deputies contacted an adult male suspect and the 9-1-1 caller. Deputies then discovered the body of an adult male who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Deputies and EMS performed a rapid assessment to attempt life saving measures but determined the male party was deceased.

Based on information reported and evidence at the scene, Investigators and Deputies with the Sheriff's Office established sufficient probable cause to arrest Luke Shelton (20) of Grand Junction. Mr. Shelton was subsequently transported to the

Delta County Detention Facility. Following completion of a thorough investigation of the scene, Investigators have charged Mr. Shelton with Murder in the First Degree, a Class 1 Felony, and Tampering with a Deceased Body, a Class 3 Felony. Mr. Shelton is being held on a \$500,000 bond, based on the seriousness of these crimes.

Investigators with the Sheriff's Office worked with the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office and Colorado Bureau of Investigations to complete the on-scene investigation and collect evidence. The Delta County Coroner's Office later responded and assisted in the investigation and identification of the deceased and notification of the next of kin. The victim has been identified as John David Vieira (58), of Hotchkiss.

Based on information and evidence collected during the investigation, investigators determined the shooting was an isolated incident with no threat to the public, and was the result of a disagreement be-

tween employees and their employer at a ranch off Payne Siding Road.

Sheriff Taylor would like to express his deepest condolences to the Vieira

family and thank the patrol, investigations and 9-1-1 communications divisions of the Sheriff's Office for their prompt, detailed and professional response to this investigation. This remains an active investigation and no additional information is available at this time. All charges are based upon probable cause and individuals arrested are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.



**Delta County Detention Facility Booking Photo: Luke Shelton**

**Our aim is true**

**the montrose mirror**

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# MAKEOVER

## \*Get a Free Bedroom Makeover

Want to make over a bedroom in your home without breaking the bank? Enter our awesome giveaway! We're offering a makeover in one bedroom in your house. You'll be able to upgrade your home with beautifully designed window coverings, bedding and more that will make it the standout on the block!



**DEADLINE TO ENTER IS JANUARY 31, 2024. CONTEST RULES:**

- Makeover is for a bedroom only
- Max value of \$2500
- No remodeling covered i.e. removing or adding walls, new windows, doors or trim. No renovations
- Award is limited to window coverings & bedding i.e. decorative pillows, bedspread and other decorative bedding items
- Maximum of 2 tags
- Must include 1 window - max of 5 windows
- Winner agrees to photo shoot of before and after shot
- Entries should be on file Budget Blinds of Montrose-Telluride Instagram and/or Facebook

1414 Hawk Pkwy UNIT G, Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 240-0099 | [budgetblinds.com/Montrose-Telluride](https://budgetblinds.com/Montrose-Telluride)

(Home must be in the Budget Blinds of Montrose-Telluride territory)

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **BARBARA LYNN ABEL** **May 29, 1938-December 28, 2023**



BARBARA LYNN ABEL passed away peacefully in Montrose, Colorado on December 28, 2023 at the age of 85. She was born in Broken Bow, Nebraska on May 29, 1938, and was raised in Ansley, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Charles Thompson and Mary (Winchester) Thompson

Schefcik. She graduated with the Ansley High School Class of 1955, where she met the love of her life, Richard C. Abel. They were married on September 4, 1955, and spent 68 years of married life together. They spent much of their life in the Broken Bow area prior to moving to Cozad, Nebraska in 1975 where they purchased a Coast to Coast store. Barbara was the co-owner and operator of the business, where they were dearly loved by the community. In 1988, the family moved to Montrose, Colorado, where they purchased the Coast to Coast store there, which later became True Value, and finally the current Abel's Ace Hardware Store, now owned by their son John and his wife, Nancy, when Richard and Barbara retired in 2003. Barbara and Richard spent their retirement traveling numerous times to Alaska and various places, and more recently on shorter trips with their side-by-side seeing our beautiful countryside.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings, Russell Thompson and Mary Jane Mitera. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Richard, her sons, Richard C. (Michele) Abel, Jr., John

(Nancy) Abel, brother Chuck (Carol) Thompson, step-brothers Roger (Susann) Thompson, and Dana (Sheri) Thompson, stepsisters Kimberly Schulte and Frances (Steve) Linegar, grandchildren, Chris Abel, Richard C. (Colette) Abel, III, Daniel (Emily) Abel, Katie (Jason) Buffum, Holly (Kale) Smith, great grandchildren, Bryce Abel, Trinity Abel, Kayleigh Abel, Jaxson Abel, Rilette Abel, Joey Abel, Jace Abel, Olivia Buffum and Nolan Smith, and many other family members and friends.

Cremation has taken place and no service is planned. It is the desire of Barbara and Richard to have their ashes spread together at their beloved family cabin overlooking the mountains and country they so loved. Memorial donations may be made to HopeWest Hospice Montrose, 725 S. 4th Street, Montrose, CO 81401. The family would like to thank them for their kind and compassionate care of Barbara, and also that of Montage Creek Memory Care, Dr. Mike Brezinsky, Dr. Randall Raziano, Dr. Steve Emmons and Dr. Sarah Judkins. Their loving kindness will not be forgotten. Crippin Funeral Home & Crematory of Montrose is assisting the family. (970)249-2121





## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

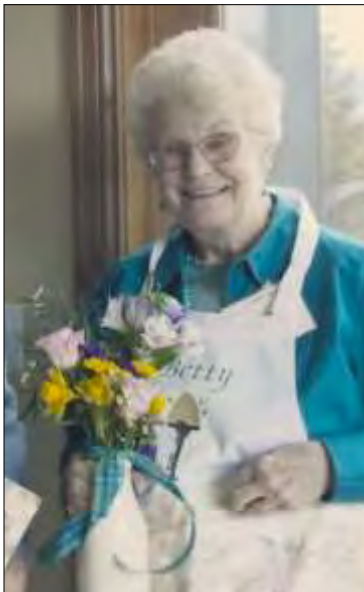
### **JOSEPHINE HECHT MAESTAS** ***March 26, 1945-December 24, 2023***

On December 24th, 2023 the angels came and took Josie up to her savior. Josephine (Josie) Hecht Maestas was born on March 26th, 1945 in Great Falls, Montana to Alfonso and Pauline Hecht. In 1948 Alfonso and Pauline relocated the family to Montrose, Colorado where Josie attended local schools graduating from Montrose High School in 1963. In 1969 Josie met Charlie Maestas and the couple were married in 1970. Josie and Charlie had one child in 1971 named Tammra Marie. Josie became a licensed beautician from 1977 onwards and worked as a stylist for many years in the Montrose area. Josie was employed by City Market for 27 years leading her into retirement. Josie continued to work post retirement by gaining employment with the Montrose County School District for approximately six years. Josie enjoyed caring and providing for her family as well as traveling with her daughter to multiple sporting events. Josie also enjoyed watching movies and reading books of her choice in addition to listening to classic 50's music.

Josie is survived by her daughter Tarnmra Marie Maestas-Herman, Son in Law Derek Herman, Grandchildren Dezeray (Matt) Hannigan, Kaitlynn (Kirk) Boyd and Cameron Herman as well as Great Grandchildren Adalyn, Brantley and Owen Hannigan, Kirk Boyd IV and Eden Boyd. Josie is further survived by her Brothers Martin and Richard Hecht and Sisters Eleanor Klaus and Irene McNulty. Josie is preceded in death by her Mother and Father, Pauline and Alfonso Hecht, Brothers Raymond, Charles, Edward and Alfonso K. Hecht. The service for Josie will be held on January 12th at 10 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church located at 1855 St. Mary's Drive in Montrose with a reception to follow. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family. (970) 249-2121



### **BETTY LOU DEVENY** ***April 9, 1928-December 24, 2023***



BETTY LOU DEVENY, age 95, passed away on December 24, 2023.

Betty was born on April 9, 1928, to Carl and Virginia Wolfe in Columbia, Missouri. She attended school in California and Arkansas. She graduated from El Monte High School in El Monte, California. She married Bob DeVeney, the love of her life, on April 11, 1948, in Springdale, Arkansas. They lived in Arkansas until 1952, then relocated to Wyoming. They worked on ranches in Chugwater, Rock River, and Jackson, Wyoming. Betty enjoyed life on the ranches. She cooked for the ranch hands during branding and haying seasons. She also made her warm home available to cold, newborn calves. She loved her role as a ranch wife and helped with fence building, irrigating, haying, calving, branding and other day to day ranch chores. She worked at the Alpenhof Lodge in Teton Village, Jackson Hole Credit Bureau and Teton Land Title, all jobs she thoroughly enjoyed.

Bob and Betty purchased property on Log Hill Mesa in 1978 and built a home there in 1981. They enjoyed raising their own cattle, training and boarding horses, and working at hunting camps for Sam Robinson and the Flowers family at the Hot Tea. Betty was a charter member of the Fortunia Tierra Club and the Darn and Patch Club. Betty kept a daily journal of their life on Log Hill. The journals start in 1985 and continue until 2017.

Betty is survived by her four children, Diana Raine of Denver, Colorado; Cathy (Randy) Blakeman of Gillette, Wyoming; Duane (Karla) DeVeney of Montrose; and Anita (Bob) Posey of Ridgway. She is survived by her grandchildren, Jason, Chad, Rob, Becky, Lisa, Adam, Clay, Paul, Jeff, Ashton, Logan and Lauren, and 18 great grandchildren! She loved them all and remembered all their birthdays!

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Bob DeVeney in 2017, her brother, Robert Wolfe in 2014, and son-in-law, Jack Raine in 2001.

Betty's family is grateful to the caregivers from Hope West and Colorow Care Center, whose compassion was a comfort during her final months. A Celebration of Life Service will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope West Colorado. [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org)

ISSUE 452 Jan. 8, 2024

# ART & SOL

## GETTING THEIR COWBOY ON: SAN JUAN SHOOTING RANGE



San Juan City. Photo by Carole Ann McKelvey.



.All of the artwork and reproductions in the old town of "San Juan City" were finished by resident artist Elmer Grose. Photo by Carole Ann McKelvey.

By Carole Ann McKelvey

Montrose Mirror Features Writer

MONTROSE -- A rootin', tootin', and shootin' good time can be had by all at Montrose's San Juan Premier Shooting Range. Many living on the Western Slope of Colorado -- even in Montrose -- aren't aware of the world-class shooting range and old Western town replica just up the hill on the Uncompahgre Plateau. The range is located on 95 acres of land at 19878 Dave Wood Road in Montrose, Colorado.

Now, this range promotes fun and safety, no messin' around here. It's a way for locals to "get their cowboy" on. The owners are professional shooters who between them have won almost all the shooting world challenges.

Shooting champion Paul Miller, 80, known in the shooting world as "San Juan" opened the range as an extension on his private property after a career in real estate. After finishing building his home just off Dave Wood Road on the

Uncompahgre Plateau, he immediately began building the shooting range. When he isn't wintering in Arizona, Miller and his family live just down the hill from all the ruckus. To make it more authentic and "old west" Miller had an old west mining town built to enhance the atmosphere. All of the artwork and reproductions in the old town of "San Juan City" were finished by resident artist Elmer Grose.

Miller said he got interested in shooting as a hobby after reading an article in his mid-30s about Frank Green, who won a silver medal at the Olympics in shooting. That was in 1964 and Green went on to become the 1968 Olympic

coach in shooting.

After getting to know Green, Paul Miller took shooting lessons from him. "He taught me to shoot," Miller says. Miller has more than proven what a good student he was. Miller's been doing what is called "cowboy action shooting" ever since, and he got so good at it that he counts among his trophies several world championships:

- \* 1999 Overall World Champion in Cowboy Action Shooting performed at the championships in Norco, California;
- \* 1980 Canadian Nationals;
- \* And over the years he's won "about 40 overall state championships including Colorado, New Mexico, *Continued next pg*

## GETTING THEIR COWBOY ON: SAN JUAN SHOOTING RANGE

*From previous pg*



**Shooting champion Paul Miller, 80, known in the shooting world as "San Juan" opened the range as an extension on his private property after a career in real estate.**

Utah, Arizona, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, and Alaska."

\* Miller has also won the National Championship at the Old West Shooters Association held in Raton, NM, three times.

Miller continues to practice his shooting at his range and while going back and forth during the winter at his Arizona home. He said he was just at a nearby shooting range near his home and was teaching shooting safety and skills to the 9 and 11-year-old children of a Canadian friend visiting in Phoenix. "I love teaching kids to respect and how to use firearms. I want them to know how to use them and not do anything stupid," he said. These days arthritis in his hands limits his shooting prowess but Miller says he keeps at it because he enjoys it so much. A recent knee replacement has also caused him to slow down a bit but he's now doing better, he said.

Running the show when Miller isn't around is local Ron Barnes, who also lives on the property.

Miller and his partner of 20 years, Camille ("Hurricane Camille") also play pickleball and there is a pickleball court built at the range for theirs and others' use. When in Montrose Paul and Camille play pickleball at the Montrose Recreational Center. Paul has a stepson, a son who lives in

Denver and Camille has a daughter in Colorado Springs. No grandchildren, but Miller said he and Camille have "three grand cats" and share their home with three Bengal cats including a "beautiful white one with blue eyes."

Ron Barnes and Elmer Grose are very helpful at the range when Paul is away. And don't count out "Old Gus" the resident "guard dog."

The pooch greets everyone coming up to shoot or visit. Tail wags and a "please come pet me" gaze is his normal greeting, although his "job" is watchdog. This day Gus wanted to pose playing with his favorite stick.

Artist Elmer Gross has added to the ambience with his drawings and paintings depicting the old west. Gross did all of the original artwork in "San Juan City." Montrose residents know Gross by his historical mural in downtown Montrose. Portraits of movie cowboys are everywhere at the range, with all of the favorites: John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Gunsmoke's James Arness and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and many more Western icons. The paintings and caricatures are for sale in the office and cover the front of an old Denver & Rio Grande Railroad car nearby.

The shooting range hosts a number of local, state, and national events yearly. Miller said his shooting range will likely be the site of the Colorado State Championships of Cowboy Action Shooting next year, 2024, in June. It is considered one of the premier shooting ranges around. Those wishing to can choose to join the San Juan Premier Range as a member for \$180 which includes spouse/significant other and children until out of college a year with full privileges or go up for the day to enhance shooting skills, or choose to pay a daily fee of \$10. The range has 18 pistol bays plus two long rifle and two short rifle bays.

Local law enforcement officers from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Police Department have their own shooting range at the facility and practice regularly, Barnes said. San Juan Premier Range rules are in place

to make sure this is a safe place for responsible gun owners, many of whom keep weapons for personal or family protection.

The range is open year-round from pretty much sun up to sun down. And, if the weather is inclement, well, just shoot from one of the antique buildings on site most of which have shooting bays behind them. The "Long Branch Saloon, Camp Bird Mine, or the old Rico Hotel" come to mind. Actual Colorado historical sites are depicted in the antique "San Juan City." Historical portraits and artwork are all by Elmer Grose.

On the day this writer and her son visited, the club was hosting a small contingent of shooters in a timed competition. Shooters were timed shooting with two single action revolvers and then ran to pick up a rifle, then a shotgun to complete the competition; Barnes was running and timing the competitors. Competing in a timed competition were "San Juan Slim," "Christian Hammer," "Ram Rod Miller," "Star dancer," and Ron Barnes, "Kodiak" himself. Alias are used, well, just for fun. Today Barnes did not have on his signature chaps.

Visitors to the range can take in the old town, watch shooters practicing -- most wearing their version of authentic western clothing and guns. Those choosing to watch shooters should wear ear and eye protection. Recent special events included: Colorado State Match (June 2022); Freedom shoot sponsored by the Montrose County Republicans, and many more competitive events. Some events have charges and visitors wishing to visit should call ahead for schedules and cost.

You can join the action by wearing your best western wear, including those boots and that cowboy hat.

At competitive shoots dry camping spots are available with spots for RVs and tent camping. Walk down main street after you've taken in all the action and take some photos in front of the old hotel, train depot and bank buildings. Every once in awhile, the range hosts a friendly "shoot-out" replicating an old west scenario.

# GETTING THEIR COWBOY ON: SAN JUAN SHOOTING RANGE

From previous pg

Those wishing to shoot at the range need to check in at the office; one-day rate is \$10; membership is \$180 a year with unlimited access all year round, no matter the weather. There are shooting ranges accessed inside many of the antique buildings lining "San Juan City." Loaner guns and ammunition are available at the range.

When it comes to gun safety and range

rules no one here is playing around. San Juan Range holds gun safety and certification classes taught at the range; this includes concealed carry training and permits. Paul Miller himself is offering pistol shooting classes; call the range for the schedule. Cost is \$125; bring your pistol, ammunition, and a lunch; or loaner guns are available for the day. He says it is "amazing the skills you can develop in a

day;" classes typically start at 8 am and run until around 4:30 pm.

The old-fashioned town is available for photos and site seeing; take a picnic and make it an afternoon. No charge to view the old-fashioned town with replicas of famous Western Slope landmarks. To get to the San Juan Premier Shooting Range head west out of town on Main Street then turn left onto 90 (Spring Creek Road) look for Dave Wood Road (6260 Rd.) and head up into the Uncompahgre Plaza. Watch for the overhead sign on the left.

For a list of upcoming events go to [sanjuanshootingrange.com](http://sanjuanshootingrange.com) or call the range (970) 249-4227.

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# Composite Digital Photography by Kate Burke

*Both images available at 2 locations*

## ART by the PARK

380 Sherman St., Ridgway  
Hours vary. Usually open daily in afternoon

## MOSAIC

21 N.Cascade Ave., Montrose  
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*Yellow Rose in Tall Glass*



*Red Rose & Red Wine*

Roses from my gardens.

Original photography and painted work, layered, digitized, and printed.

Available framed or as unframed print to order

<https://kathrynrburke.com/art-shows-sales/>

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451  
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

**Worship Service Times:** Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-  
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-  
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-  
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical  
 Anglican Church committed to the minist-  
 ry of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our  
 music is a combination of traditional  
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join  
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-  
 day service. We would love to welcome  
 you here. Following the service, join us for  
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-  
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck  
 meal together.

**Vision:** We see Jesus Christ restoring  
 hope: in us and in our world.

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist  
 112Main St.  
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist Church  
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)

**Address:** 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

**Website:** [https://  
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

**Church Description/Mission:** Celebration  
 Church makes disciples that make disci-  
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, discipleship, community, service,  
 prayer, love, and unity.

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

**Adult** -Discipleship classes 8am and  
 10:45am.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose  
**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od

**Address:** 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

**Website:** [www.montroselutheran.org](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto:montroselutheran@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at  
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at  
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-  
 ing environment being comforted and en-  
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of  
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors  
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young  
 children and teenagers.

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9 am-  
 Noon and by Appointment

**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249  
 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

**Services** Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult  
 Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-  
 appropriate children's ministry during  
 adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church  
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

**Demographics:** Our church consists of old-  
 er and younger people. We have younger  
 families with children and young teens and  
 older adults as well. We also support the  
 work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its  
 addiction recovery ministry.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

**Address:** 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.  
 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -

12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com),

[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

**Pastor:** Jesse Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-  
 courage, challenge and support one anoth-*

*er through spiritual growth, worship, and  
 service in our community, country, and  
 world. We also encourage children and  
 youth to grow their relationship with Christ  
 through our children and student minis-  
 tries.*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ  
**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047  
 Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.  
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.  
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)  
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist  
**Address:** 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401  
**Office Hours:** M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Contact Information:** 970-249-3716, [office@montroseumc.org](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.org)  
**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young  
**Worship service times:**  
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual  
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship  
 11 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

*Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.*  
*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.*

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist  
**Address:** 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm  
**Contact information:**  
 Phone: 970.249.4887  
 website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Times:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.  
*Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.*  
*We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no*

*matter what stage of life they are in.*  
**Children's services:** *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*  
*We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.*

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Interfaith  
**Address:** Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose  
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home Office** – 970-252-0908  
**Contact information:**  
 Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,  
 970-252-0908,  
[arlyn@spiritaware.org](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),  
[www.spiritaware.org](http://www.spiritaware.org)

**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available. **Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

welcome. *The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.* People of all ages are welcome. There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)  
**Address:** 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868  
**Contact:** [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.  
**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am.  
 Fellowship following service.  
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

### Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

**Address:** 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

**Office hours:** Varies

### Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: [summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website: [www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://www.summitchurchmontrose.org)

**Senior Pastor:** John DeSario

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

*Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the*

*Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!*

*We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.*

*During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.*

*We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study.*

*We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.*

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

**Address:** 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

*Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.*

*Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.*

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

## Local Immunization Providers



Visit [www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers. Questions? Call (970) 252-5011



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[telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com](mailto:telluridemaintenancesolutions@gmail.com)

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SAN MIGUEL, MESA, AND  
SURROUNDING COUNTIES



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON UNCOMPAGHRE FIELD OFFICE PLAN AMENDMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comment to inform the development of an environmental impact statement analyzing potential amendments to the April 2020 Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan. The plan covers about 678,400 acres of public lands and 973,300 acres of subsurface mineral estate in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties.

“We value the public’s input early and throughout what will be a tightly focused two-year process,” said BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager Suzanne Copping. “The public helps ensure that our agency arrives at more informed and cohesive decisions.”

This analysis is limited to considering alternative management approaches for oil and gas resources, lands with wilderness characteristics, and previously analyzed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, consistent with two litigation settlement agreements. BLM will consider an alternative that corresponds with management actions previously analyzed in the 2019 Uncompahgre Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and associated final environmental impact statement and will strive for consistency with other BLM planning efforts for Gunnison sage-grouse and Colorado big game species.

A Notice of Intent publishing in tomorrow’s *Federal Register* will open a 45-day scoping period scheduled to close February 20, 2024. Written comments may be submitted through the “Participate Now” option at the BLM National NEPA Register (preferred) or delivered to: Uncompahgre Field Office RMP Amendment/EIS, BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401.

Additional information is available at the (970) 210-5579 or email [BLM\\_COSO\\_5000\\_UFO\\_RMPA\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_COSO_5000_UFO_RMPA_EIS@blm.gov) or by contacting project manager Angela LoSasso at [ov](mailto:ov).

*DineOutMontrose.com*

<b>Mimo's</b> 970-249-0616	<b>Fiesta Guadalajara</b> 970-249-2460
<b>Pahgre's</b> 970-249-6442	<b>Alpen Confections</b> 970-648-0609
<b>Rib City</b> 970-249-7427	<b>Remington's at the Bridges</b> 970-252-1119
<b>Stone House</b> 970-240-8899	<b>Jimmer's BBQ, Burgers &amp; Beers</b> 970-252-1227




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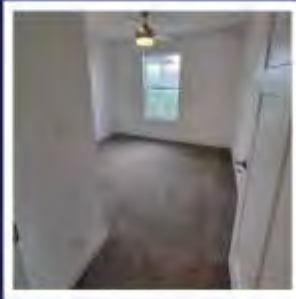


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(970) 249-0493  
cimarroncreekcommunity.com  
manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com  
901 65.30 Road # 1000 Montrose, CO 81401



# Sip & Paint. Pet Portraits

## Thr., Jan 11, Mosaic

### 21 N. Cascade Ave.

### 5:30-7:30 pm



Take a picture of your pet and send it to us. We will transfer it onto a canvas for you. Then, paint your pet!

Demonstration and detailed instructions. Everything provided plus a drink. \$45. Welcome Back, \$40.



With Kate Burke



Sign up in store or register online  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/011124m>

# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**MONTROSE ALTRUSA**-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

**FREE THINKERS** meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

**BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

**MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 [www.montrosehistory.org](http://www.montrosehistory.org)

**MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS** second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: Al Head 970-209-0981 or [aheadaviation@outlook.com](mailto:aheadaviation@outlook.com)

**NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

**BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY** at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

**THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO** welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street. We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at [ErinKEaston@gmail.com](mailto:ErinKEaston@gmail.com)

**THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER** at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

## MONTHLY

**Jan. 8**-Monday Jan. 8 at 5 Safety Complex mtg rm Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to plan local action to mitigate climate change. Clean Earth Year. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome .info 970-765-9095.

**Jan. 12**-*A Walk in the Woods* by playwright Lee Blessing opens at Magic Circle Theatre on Friday, Jan. 12 and runs for three weeks. [www.magiccircleplayers.com](http://www.magiccircleplayers.com).

**Jan. 25**-Burns Night 2024.

Save a tree –  
Read the Mirror!

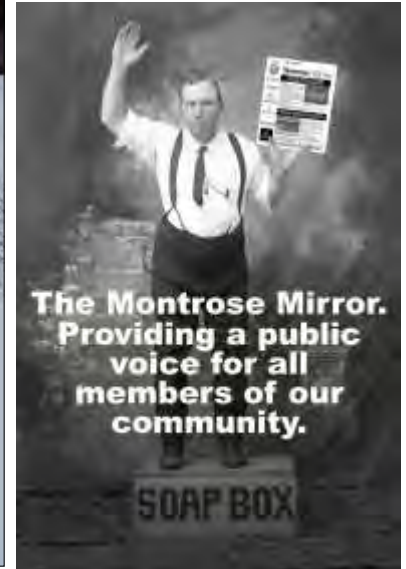
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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured scenes of wintry beauty at Ouray Ice Park and Red Mountain Creek, at left.



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